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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

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MAY 12, 1896.—Ordered to be printed.

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Mr. GALLINGER, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 4383.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 4383) granting a pension to William H. Morris, have examined the same, and report:

The report of the Committee on Invalid Pensions of the House of Representatives hereto appended is adopted, and the passage of the bill is recommended.

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HOUSE REPORT.

William H. Morris was born in 1827. He was graduated from West Point with the class of 1851, and commenced his military career as a lieutenant in the Second United States Infantry, then stationed at Fort Yuma, Cal. At the outbreak of the war of the rebellion he was assigned to duty, with the rank of captain, as the assistant adjutant-general and chief of the staff of Maj. Gen. John J. Peck, in the Army of the Potomac. He served through the peninsula campaigns with great credit.

He was commissioned colonel of the Sixth New York Volunteer Artillery on September 2, 1862, and was ordered with his regiment to Baltimore, which was then threatened by Stonewall Jackson's army, only 40 miles away, at Frederick. The rebels having been driven back out of Maryland by the Army of the Potomac, Morris was placed in command of Fort McHenry and his regiment added to its garrison. Soon after he was ordered to Harpers Ferry. While there he was promoted to the rank of brigadier-general and placed in charge of Maryland Heights, with a force consisting of the Sixth Regiment New York Artillery, regiments of infantry and cavalry, and batteries of heavy guns.

When Maryland Heights were abandoned, by order of the War Department, General Morris was ordered to join the Third Corps in the Army of the Potomac. A brigade was organized for him, consisting of the Sixth Regiment New York Artillery and the following regiments of infantry: The Fourteenth New Jersey, the Tenth Vermont, the One hundred and fifty-first New York Volunteers. General Morris was in the reserve at the battle of Gettysburg, July 1 to 3, 1863, and engaged in the action of Wapping Heights, July 23, 1863. Not long after this time the Sixth New York Regiment of Artillery was ordered to join the artillery reserve of the Army of the Potomac.

General Morris was conspicuous in the action of Locust Grove, November 29, 1863. In the reorganization of the Army of the Potomac the Third Corps was broken up; one part sent to join the Second Corps, and the other part, with General Morris, was added to the Sixth Corps. The new brigade formed for him consisted of the One hundred and sixth New York, the One hundred and fifty-first New York, the Fourteenth New Jersey, the Tenth Vermont, and the Eighty-seventh Pennsylvania Regiment Volunteer Infantry. In the Richmond campaign under Grant General Morris was constantly engaged, taking an important part in the battle of the Wilderness.

At the action near Spottsylvania, May 9, 1864, General Morris was shot through the leg by a sharpshooter and rendered unfit for further service in the field.

After some months passed in the hospital at Georgetown, General Morris was ordered to report to General Dix for court-martial duty in New York, and continued on light duty until the close of the war, when he was honorably mustered out of service. The brevet rank of major-general, United States Volunteers, was conferred upon him by the President of the United States March 13, 1863, "for gallant and meritorious services in the battle of the Wilderness, Virginia."

General Morris represented Putnam County, N. Y., in the constitutional convention of 1867, and was chief of ordnance and inspector-general in the National Guard of the State of New York.

General Morris has lately been suffering from a complication of diseases which has made him a chronic invalid, unable to earn his living—a serious consideration to a man who has all his life been obliged to depend on his own exertions for his means of support.

In view of the very distinguished services of General Morris and of his record as a gallant soldier, your committee recommend the passage of the bill.